

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of: Antonio MONTSERRATE GIBERNAU
Serial No.: Not yet known
Filed: Simultaneously
For: **A PACKAGING ASSEMBLY FOR FOOD
PRODUCTS TO BE COOKED OR
HEATED IN MICROWAVE OVENS**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 9, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the original specification for the "Un-Marked Version of the Amended Specification" enclosed herewith.

Enclosed please find a marked-up version of the specification. Please amend the specification according to the marked-up version of the specification submitted herewith. Please note, additions to the specification are denoted by either underlining or hyphenating and deletions from the specification are denoted by bracketing.

Enclosed also please find an un-marked version of the substitute specification containing all of the additions and deletions made herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper which contains the food product;

an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper;

at least one layer of a heat-concentrating material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion [thereof] of the outer package, during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven.

2. (Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a sheet of a heat-insulating material, attached to an inner part of the outer package [on the inner part thereof].

3. (Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a continuous web of flexible material, common to a plurality of said products each [with its] including said outer package and [its] said inner wrapper.

6. (Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in [any of] Claim 1, wherein the inner wrapper [presents] comprises at least one area [with] having two sheets of material, and wherein the layer of heat-concentrating material [being] is inserted between said two sheets of material.

12. (Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package presents at least one weld-line of a predetermined strength, [which] wherein said at least one weld-line facilitates the opening of the outer package during heating.

Please add the following new claims.

13. (New) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material further comprises:

at least one strip of heat-concentrating material.

14. (New) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one strip of heat-concentrating material is applied on said outer package.

Enclosed please find an un-marked version of the claims as amended including all of the amendments made to claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 12 above and the addition of new claims 13 and 14.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include section headings at appropriate locations,

to correct minor grammatical errors and to more accurately describe the features of the present invention.

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention and to correct minor informalities. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 13 and 14 are supported by the original disclosure of the invention.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encls.

- Marked-up Version of the Specification
- Un-Marked Version of the Specification
- Un-Marked Version of the Claims as Amended